McGILL

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

MONTREAL



Library from McTavish Street.

A. T. TAYLOR, ESQ., ARCHITECT.

Opening

OF THE

New Library

McGill University, Montreal

CONTAINING THE
ADDRESSES DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION
WITH
A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING; SOME POINTS IN THE
HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY;
IN MEMORIAM.

October 31st

1893


SIR DONALD A SMITH KCMG LLD
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF ABERDEEN

PETER REDPATH
GOVERNOR

List of Illustrations.

Preliminary.

In 1891, Mr. Peter Redpath, Senior Governor of McGill University, addressed to the Chancellor the following letter :—

MONTREAL, Nov. 12, 1891.

Dear Sir Donald Smith,

I have had a plan prepared for a library building, which, with the consent of the Governors, I propose to have erected on the grounds of McGill University and for its use. The plan has been adapted to the site immediately below the Presbyterian College, which I have been led to understand is available for the purpose. I have endeavoured to make provision for all the requirements of a university library.

If the proposal be accepted by the Governors, I venture to suggest that they should appoint a small committee of members of the university to examine the plans on the return, at Christmas, of Mr. Taylor, the architect, now absent from the city. Should any modifications be suggested, I shall be glad to consider them. If the report be favorable, as I trust it will, arrangements will be made for commencing to build as early as possible next spring.

The control of the building and its contents will rest, of course, absolutely with the authorities of the university.

I am,

Dear Sir Donald,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) PETER REDPATH.

THE HON. SIR DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G.,
Chancellor, University of McGill,
Montreal.

This generous offer was gratefully accepted, as additional accommodation for both books and readers was, at the time, greatly needed. In the early Spring of 1892, the foundations were laid, upon ground that had recently been purchased at a cost of some $50,000.00, and presented to the University by Mr. J. H. R. Molson. Work was continued through the year with all practicable speed, and it was intended that the new building should be inaugurated during the first week of October, 1893.

Finally, however, the 31st October was fixed upon for the opening of the building, and Their Excellencies the Governor-General of Canada and the Countess of Aberdeen graciously consented to preside on the occasion.

A sufficient number of volumes was moved into the building to show what the arrangement would be upon the shelves both of the "stack" and of the main reading-room. Upon the day appointed, Their Excellencies, who paid their first official visit to the University at this time, were received in the William Molson Hall by the Governors, Mr. and Mrs. Redpath, the Vice-Principal, Members of Convocation, and the invited guests. After the presentation of an address of welcome to Their Excellencies, the entire company proceeded to the new library building, where, in the absence of the Chancellor Sir Donald A. Smith, Mr. J. H. R. Molson spoke as follows :—

J. H. R. Molson, Esq.

We are assembled here to-day to receive from our old and valued friend, Mr. Redpath, the deed of this beautiful building, and without more words, as we have much to do, I will ask Mr. Redpath to address us.

Entrance Hall, and Staircase.

Peter Redpath, Esq.

I beg Your Excellencies to accept my most sincere thanks for the honour conferred by your attendance on an occasion which it has been my privilege to create. I also thank His Honour the Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Quebec and the distinguished company around and before me, for the interest manifested in the function of to-day. There is always a feeling of satisfaction in the mere doing of what one considers will be of benefit to the university and the city, and possibly beyond it. But it is pleasing also to have the approval and sympathy of those who feel an interest in the object we have in view.

We mourn to-day the loss of a very eminent public man, who had an official connection with this university. It would have been gratifying to me, had circumstances permitted, to have postponed the proceedings for a few days.

The conventional few words which are now expected from me will be devoted entirely to matters relating to the building in which we are assembled. The necessity for largely increased accommodation for the library of McGill University has been manifest for some years past. I believe that this building, with its possible extensions, will provide space for all the books that the university is likely to own for many years to come. It is the result of as much care and attention as the architect and myself knew how to bestow upon it. The plans of many other libraries were examined, and many other libraries were visited both by myself and the architect, with a view to arriving at the best possible plan for this building on this site. The newly-appointed librarian, too, gave many valuable suggestions in matters of detail. I know that we have not attained perfection; but experience will show how far we have advanced towards that end. In no case has utility been sacrificed to architectural or æsthetical effect, yet I believe that the architectural design and the æsthetical effects have met with the general approbation of the comparatively few persons who have hitherto had an opportunity of studying them. I remember a meeting of Convocation a good many years ago at which Principal Dawson, in a general appeal for aid to the university, described the library shelves as "gaping for books." The shelves then "gaping" have been filled, and the books have overflowed. But now the shelves here will absorb them all, and there will still be shelves gaping for more. Let me here take the liberty of saying to those who may desire to present collections of books to the univer-

sity, that they should not diminish the value of their gifts by requiring that the books should be kept together as special collections. The librarian ought to have, and, in fact, must have the liberty of classifying all the books under his charge and placing those on the same subject together, from whatever quarter they may come, otherwise some confusion and expense will be caused, and the donor may in that way be disappointed. The only features in the building to which I will make special reference are the painted windows at each end of the hall. They are the gift of my wife, who has heartily encouraged me during the whole progress of the building. I have much pleasure in acknowledging her and my obligations to Messrs. Clayton & Bell, of London, the designers, who have expressed the sincere pleasure they had in executing the work. They were willing to accept suggestions, and my previous experience of their work led me to confide in their scholarly care and artistic taste. I hope that the result, considering that they had no Raphael to consult, will be considered satisfactory. The decorations are not quite completed. There are spaces in the windows which will hereafter receive inscriptions and texts, which may be strewed around to teach the civic, as well as the rustic moralist—not to die, but to live. Mr. President, I have no deed of gift to offer to-day. I know what follows when a man knowingly builds upon ground belonging to another. This building already belongs to the University, without any gift from me. I know that it is only a convenient shelter for its more valuable contents ; but students will, I hope, appreciate the facilities here offered, and the pleasant surroundings I have endeavoured to provide.

J. H. R. Molson, Esq.

In the absence of our honoured Chancellor, Sir Donald A. Smith, who expected to be here to-day, but who has been unavoidably detained in England, the duty has devolved upon me of accepting, on behalf of this University, the magnificent building in which we are now assembled. I know it would be anything but agreeable to my old friend and schoolfellow, Mr. Redpath, if I attempted to say how much we appreciate the gift with which he has endowed us. He has contributed to every branch of the university work. He has seen and known the necessity of education and the wants of the students, and he has ever been foremost in supplying their wants, both by his sound judgment and by his financial aid. I am here to-day to thank him, and to accept his gift on behalf of this University, and I do so.

The two magnificent buildings—the museum on our right, and this building—are but the visible signs of the great good we have received from him. Long and faithfully has he done his work, and he has done it in the best way ; and we now have to thank him, remembering that the man who does good for posterity is a real benefactor. How long and how faithfully he has worked for this institution, only those who have been associated with him can know. He has been ever present with us when on this side of the Atlantic, and since he has been called away to live the greater portion of the time in Europe, he has never forgotten us. His constant contributions to this library, for which he has now provided a building, are but too little known to the outside public.

As we have but little time to spare, and men more able and eloquent will address you, I will merely conclude by thanking Mr. Redpath, on behalf of this University. The whole university—the university of the present and the university of the future—will honour the name of our venerable and esteemed colleague. I can say "venerable," because he is my senior. When very young and for years afterwards, we were at school together, and I learned to love him and to appreciate him for his many excellences ; and although I have called him my "venerable' friend, I do so not because of his years, but on account of valuable assistance contributed to me and to everybody with whom he came in contact. Once again I thank Mr. Redpath in the name of the University, and of the citizens of Montreal. He is one of ourselves, a citizen of Montreal, born in Montreal, and educated here, though not at McGill. In those days McGill was fighting for its existence ; but it is now strong and vigorous, and it is through such men as Sir Donald Smith, Mr. Redpath and Mr. McDonald, that we can offer to the young men of this country an education which will enable them to make their mark in any occupation in any part of the world.

Peter Redpath, Esq.

I beg Your Excellency's acceptance of a full-sized gold model of the key providing entrance to this building. It is not so big as the key of the old Tolbooth prison I saw in Abbotsford, but it is big enough to open the front door lock of this building. I ask that you will declare the building ready for occupation.

His Excellency The Governor-General of Canada,

VISITOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.



Delivery Counter.

Mr. Principal, Your Honour,
Mr. Redpath, Ladies and Gentlemen—

Once more the governing body and friends of this University have assembled to receive and to celebrate a magnificent contribution to the equipment and material for its work. McGill College has, indeed, become in a real and active sense a monument of the enlightenment and generous public spirit of several of the most successful and esteemed of the sons of Montreal. I trust it will be a cause of happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Redpath, as it will assuredly be to their friends, that they are personally present on this occasion. Many years of a successful and upright career, and of much public usefulness, have rendered the worth and the name of Mr. Peter Redpath so familiar that it is unnecessary, nor would it in his presence be acceptable to himself, to dilate upon his claims to public esteem and goodwill ; and now, *si monumentum requiris, circumspice*. I confess that I regret somewhat that there was no actual deed of conveyance from Mr. Redpath by way of outward sign and symbol of this splendid gift ; but, after all, we have this golden model of the key. I confess I did not quite understand Mr. Redpath's reference to the risk of dealing with land not absolutely in one's own possession. I do not think that there need be any misgiving on that account. I can, if I may quote once more, mention a favorable example where no difficulty has arisen. I refer to the case of the University College of Oxford, which I claim as my Alma Mater. That college was founded by King Alfred. On the one thousandth anniversary of that foundation many men of mark were present, among them being the late Dean of Westminster, Dean Stanley. He entered into a very learned disquisition as to whether King Alfred actually had been the owner of the land and the founder of the college, and I am afraid he did not absolutely argue in favor of that. Lord Sherbrooke, who was present, said that he had never doubted the fact ; but, after all, the Dean's summing up tended to incredibility, because he had remarked that probably it was not founded by King Alfred, because the land did not belong to him but was in the hands of the Danes. Mr. Lowe said : "This increases my conviction, because it is not always easy to give away what belongs to us, but it is easy when it belongs to somebody else." Whatever may be the conditions as to the land, I am

sure the building placed here will be secure, and I trust that it will remain as long as the world lasts. It is not necessary to enlarge upon the personal aspect of this noble gift to the University, but we may, at least, remark that Mr. Redpath's munificence may be justly regarded as, on the one hand, in some sense the result, and, on the other hand, certainly a conspicuous token of the earnest appreciation of education and knowledge that prevails, not only in this city of Montreal, but throughout Canada as a whole. This fact is full of hopeful significance.

Mr. Molson has already alluded to the unavoidable absence of the esteemed Chancellor of this University, and I am sure we all regret, and none more than Mr. Redpath, his absence on this occasion. Sir Donald A. Smith is a man whose name has become a household word for energy, for public spirit, and especially for practical and princely generosity in promoting works of public utility and benefit ; and that is nowhere more fully exemplified than in the case of this college, in which he so worthily occupies the position of Chancellor.

The roll of former students of McGill who have attained to mark and merit is already considerable, and none surely will rejoice in the fact more than the learned Principal, who, for so many years has ably presided over the work of the college, and who, on his retirement from the active duties of his position, will be followed by the warm and grateful good wishes of his colleagues and many friends.

I think I see some of the present students of the college in this hall, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you, gentlemen, for the cordial welcome which you extended to Lady Aberdeen and myself upon our arrival. Will you also permit me to thank you, not only in my own name, but in the name of this large and brilliant assembly, and I would venture to say in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, for the manner in which you rendered the National Anthem on the entrance of the procession into this hall. The words and the melody of "God Save the Queen" are tolerably familiar, but there is a right way and wrong way of singing it, as well as a right and a wrong way of understanding the principle represented thereby. Therefore, I appreciate such a rendering as that you gave, which was not only characteristic of the evident spirit of strength which entered into the singing, but of the correctness of time, measure and expression. Well, gentlemen, I need not, I think, attempt to address to you words of exhortation or incentive. You are doubtless actuated by a sense of the far-reaching importance and responsibility of the opportunities for your equipment in the great work of life which are here provided for your use. Any utterance which I might venture to offer to you would, therefore, be that of congratulation and of confident expectation. Surely we may say in the words of the text inscribed on that mantel-piece:—"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding." In acquiring knowledge there is happiness and real conscious satisfaction. At all times and everywhere the work of education is of sacred importance ; but if any condition of things could enhance its value, it is the case of a young country with vast capabilities and scope for future development and influence. Nor should we forget that every intellectual or scientific advance, in this or any other country, is not for the benefit of that country alone, but indirectly, and sooner or later, for the benefit of the whole human race.

And again, with reference to this fair land, the fact that she is within the British Empire in no way detracts from the distinction accruing to Canada by reason of the success of her sons in any branch of literature, science or art. The Canadian student, author, poet, scientist or theologian who rises to eminence does so as a Canadian, and brings fame to his country as such, because of the happy combination of Canadian nationality and patriotism with attachment to the mother country and her constitution, in harmony with which Canada may look forward to an ever-increasing influence and success.

Mr. Principal, it is impossible to speak in public to-day, especially in connection with this college, without reference to the announcement which has reached us this morning, and which necessarily imparts a sombre hue to this gathering. The distinguished man who has just passed away was one of the most eminent of the many who have claimed McGill as their Alma Mater. The close of Sir John Abbott's career has taken place in the midst of the sympathy and sorrow of many attached friends, and with the respect and esteem of the public at large. His loss is mourned ; but here especially, in this centre of preparation for future work, we must not use language of gloom or despondency. The former Prime Minister of Canada would have been the first to recognize and rejoice in the fact that when the worker resigns his commission of service in this world, others are coming forward to fill up the ranks of the great army of all who, in whatever sphere, are striving to press on in the service of God by serving their fellow-men. No better wish can be expressed for this college than that such a spirit may be the key-note of its operations and its influence. I now declare the new library building to be opened.

Sir William Dawson.

Your Excellency, Your Honour,

Members of Convocation, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

The occasion on which we are to-day assembled, brings before us thoughts that relate to the past, the present and the future of this University. Some of us here remember the time in 1855, when, with the exception of a few books in the possession of the Medical Faculty, there was no University library. Our first beginning of a library was made in the session of 1855-6, by the purchase of a small number of books, mostly on English history and literature. When, in 1860, we moved up to these buildings from our temporary lodgings over the old High School on Dorchester street, we carried here some 1,500 volumes ; and when in 1862, Mr. William Molson, who next to Mr. McGill, stands at the head of our benefactors, undertook to complete for us our unfinished buildings, a part of his plan was to provide a library room, in which he placed shelves sufficient to accommodate some 20,000 volumes. At that time we could put into those shelves only about 2,000 volumes, and hence the allusion by Mr. Redpath to an old and half forgotten address, in which I spoke of the shelves of the library as "gaping for books." We had the shelves, but the books were few and far between ; and some of our friends laughed at our beggarly array of empty shelves and at our calling the place a library. But it acted as a stimulus to many benefactors, and donations of books and of money came in, so that the library grew at a rapid rate. In 1870, we had nearly 10,000 books ; by 1880 or 1882, we had reached about 20,000, and now we come into this building with, at least, 35,000. Long before we left the old building, the shelves that had been "gaping for books," were filled to overflowing ; and we had to enlarge the shelves and extend the library into other rooms. So much for the past. With regard to the present, Your Excellency has spoken of Mr. Redpath's noble gift and of the benefits to be derived by students in this building; and those only who have had experience in educational work can fully understand what those benefits will be. Hitherto we have had to do reading under disadvantageous circumstances. We had no special reading-room, but merely a part of a single room overcrowded with books, and very often with readers, with little light and ventilation, and little to induce any one to linger long over even attractive literature Now you have this magnificent room, unsurpassed anywhere on this side of the Atlantic for its beauty and utility. I have no doubt that students, as well as others, will fill this room and avail themselves of the facilities it offers, and that the use of books will increase in the university, and that study and original research will be greatly promoted on the part of our students and of the community as a whole. A student in this room, with the books we can offer him, will have very little to desire ; and when he becomes fatigued with his studies he can turn and see looking down upon him the faces of those representatives of literature, science and art, who are so beautifully portrayed on the windows of this room. The windows have already been referred to as the gift of Mrs. Redpath, and we recognize in them not only her affection for the university, but her regard towards the students ; and in this handsome gift, as becomes an excellent woman, she has put the crown upon the work of her husband. What shall we say of the future? That, of course, we



Fire-place and Mantel, Reading-Room.

cannot penetrate; and those of us who are old have not a very great length of time to look forward to; but I think we may fairly anticipate that history will repeat itself in regard to the enlargement and extension of our library. When we went into the old library provided by Mr. William Molson, we had ten times more space on our shelves than we had books to put on them. Mr. Redpath has not been quite so liberal in that respect, for we have only accommodation for about four times the number of books we possess at present. Therefore, I should not wonder if Mr. Redpath's library should fill up even more rapidly than Mr. Molson's. But we can only wish that Mr. and Mrs. Redpath may live to return, and to see the shelves filled and many books demanding additional space in our stack-room.

Allusion has been made to the loss we have sustained, and which has cast something of a shadow over this meeting. Sir John Abbott was our oldest living graduate on our list of Doctors of Law. He stood at the head of our list of graduates in course, with the exception of his brother Christopher, who passed away some time ago. Not only so, but when, shortly after the reorganization of the university in 1852, the Board of Governors were desirous to establish a Faculty of Law, they selected Mr. Abbott, then quite a young lawyer, who had only been admitted to the bar four or five years before, and appointed him dean of the new faculty. Judge Day, Judge Dunkin and many able men of that day were upon our Board of Governors, and the choice was a recognition on their part of his early merit, and showed their prescience in regard to the career of one of the young graduates of that time. Many of our graduates have since followed in a like course, not only in law, but in other professions. When, at a later time, public employment obliged him to relinquish his position in the Faculty of Law, he was invited to become a member of the Board of Governors; and although he has not been able to attend many of our meetings, I can testify that he was always ready to give aid and sagacious counsel in every circumstance where any difficulty arose. I can look back to many occasions on which he gave time and thought to the interests of the university in a manner not acknowledged in any public way. It is well for us, therefore, to remember him on an occasion of this kind; but, as Your Excellency has very well said, it should not cast any gloom over us. He is gone from us, but we know that if he were here he would have rejoiced as we do on this occasion, for he was a man who loved books and who loved learning for its own sake.

In conclusion, I think I may say, on behalf of every professor, every instructing officer, every graduate and every student, that we most sincerely thank Mr. Redpath for the wise, judicious and liberal manner in which he has furnished us with this great and noble addition to our university work.

Alexander Johnson, Esq., LL.D.

VICE-PRINCIPAL OF McGILL UNIVERSITY.

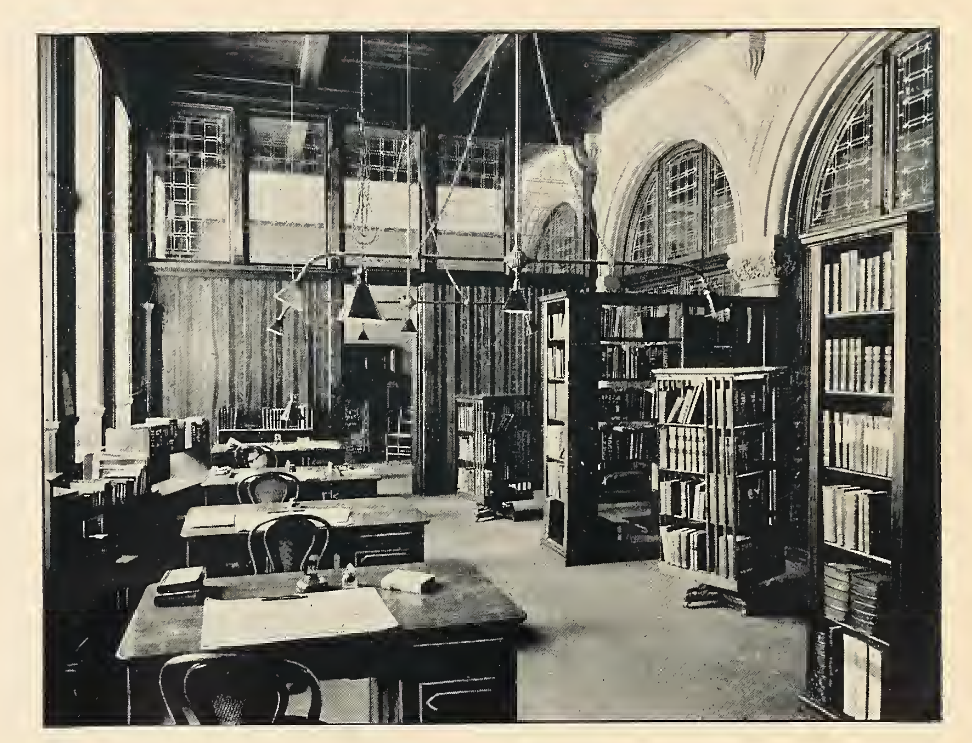
Your Excellency, Members of Convocation,
Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I would ask permission to preface my own remarks by reading a letter I have received from a gentleman whom we hoped to have had here to-day, a former student of McGill, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper. He says:—

"I find that the Hamilton ceremony for the unveiling of Sir John Macdonald's statue takes place on Wednesday. Of course, I must be there. This prevents me from attending on Tuesday night the opening of the Redpath Library at dear old McGill. I am very sorry. I wished most sincerely to be with you, to join in your rejoicing, and to say how much Mr. Redpath's public and generous spirit is to be admired. McGill University is not only flourishing among Canadian schools of learning, but it can now claim to be one of the best on the continent of America."

That is the opinion and feeling of one student, and I feel certain that the expression of gratitude to the donor which it contains, will be echoed by every student and every professor of the University. Every one of us knows and feels the value of this important part of the university, for the expansion of which such noble provision has now been made. Its importance cannot be over-rated. In fact, if I were asked to name the three chief parts of a university, I would be inclined to say the professors, the students and the library. I do not forget the graduates in saying this, for every graduate who consults the library is a student. We can see the value of the library most readily when we remember that one great function

of a university is to maintain the continuity of human knowledge; to preserve the knowledge which has been evolved by the labor of man's intellect through thousands of years in the past; to collect the great additions to that mass which are being made from day to day in the present, and to transmit it, with all our care, to posterity. With this idea before us, the function of the library is obvious; it is the storehouse of that intellectual food from which the professors draw those supplies required day by day for the needs of the students. If I might be allowed to use a scientific term in describing the treasure-house, valued equally by scientific and by literary men, I would call the library itself potential knowledge; that is, knowledge which is stored up and available for human needs, but which is not actual knowledge until men come to it and set it going, put it in motion if I may use the expression, among their fellow men, that is, the professors first among the students, the students afterwards carrying it abroad and spreading its benefits among other men, among thousands, who are influenced in this way by the university, while, probably, unconscious of the influence. The knowledge thus brought into action might be called kinetic knowledge, and did time permit, a great deal might be said under this head of the debt due to a good library. Few could appreciate this so well as those who, like myself, have been acquainted with our present library in its earlier stages. It is not large now, quite the contrary, still it is tolerably useful. But there was a time, when after some experience, I laid it down as a general rule for my own guidance, that any book which I desired would certainly *not* be found in our book-cases. I tested the rule often, and found it so invariably correct, that I acted on it afterwards. It saved me a great deal of time.



Cataloguing Room.

I have been speaking of the value of a library more than of the splendid home which Mr. Redpath has provided for our library. I think that we owe our warmest thanks to Mr. Redpath, not only for this building, but also for the very significant hint which he has given us, one that cannot be overlooked, viz., that our present library should be greatly enlarged. He has himself shown the way in that fine historical collection to which he is constantly adding. This building may be called a suggestion in stone on a magnificent scale, and I feel certain that the citizens of Montreal, when they see the vacant spaces in the interior, will not fail to interpret the suggestion aright.

Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C. M. G.

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

With your Excellency's permission,

Mr. Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the course of the excellent speeches that have been delivered to-day, there was one remark that interested me exceedingly, and that was made by Mr. Molson—it was that speeches should be short. I shall accept the hint with a great deal of pleasure to myself, and, perhaps, also to you. Indeed, I am sure if there is one thing I have learned in my life, sitting at the head of the table of the House of Commons, it is to be exceedingly careful of what I say in public. There is another thing I might also add, and it is that politicians learn—my distinguished friend, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, will agree with me—that "speech is silver, but silence is golden." But at the same time I admit there are some occasions when it would be almost criminal to be silent, and one of these occasions is the present. It is an exceeding gratification to me to be present here to-day. When I first came in this afternoon, I was told I should be called upon to make a few remarks. I rather regretted it, for the reason I have already stated, but especially as I was placed at some disadvantage. I think it is always usual when you are going to present an address to anybody, to send a copy in advance, so that the answer will be carefully prepared. I thought if I was called upon to make a few remarks in the presence of so many scholars and dignitaries I should be placed in the same favourable position; but it is to your advantage, perhaps, that I should have no special opportunity of claiming your indulgence. There are many reasons why I am glad to be present here. Whilst a good many of my hours, especially at night, are spent among politicians, there are also much more pleasant hours spent among my books. I frankly confess that I have found them the true friends of my life. I have had the advantage in my life of making many acquaintances and many friends. Yet friends sometimes forget you, and even your first love marries somebody else. But Shakespeare, Milton, Molière, Victor Hugo are always near.

On one account I am peculiarly gratified to be here to-day. When I was a youth—I am a Nova Scotian by birth, like the gentleman to whom allusion has already been made, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, the son of the steadfast friend of my life—there was one name especially, which, as a Nova Scotian, I learned to respect. We have had many distinguished Nova Scotians, statesmen and men of letters. But the name I learned to esteem was that of Sir William Dawson. In my later years, since I came to this part of Canada, it has been my good fortune to make his personal acquaintance, and I have grown not merely to esteem but to admire him, and have found that in forming the estimate I did of him in my youth, I was not wrong. I congratulate him that at the close of his connection with McGill, he should see the most conspicuous labor of his life so satisfactorily crowned. In this institution he may assuredly say that his life has not been unsuccessful. I congratulate also the citizens of Montreal on having amongst them men of such enterprise, energy and worthy ambition as Mr. Redpath, Mr. Molson and Sir Donald Smith. If there is one thing I admire amongst our American neighbours, it is that in every small town and village in New England I see a beautiful library, a monument of architectural art, well filled with books all given by the rich men of that enterprising and great country. I am happy to say their example is being followed here. It is men like those to whom I have alluded that are a credit to this country. Let the cities of Toronto, Hamilton Halifax and Quebec imitate them, and then I will be able to say what I have never been able to say hitherto, that we have great libraries in this country. We are behind our neighbours in this respect. In Toronto you have an inferior building in which is housed a considerable number of books, but not the number which should be there. In Montreal you have a praiseworthy attempt at a museum of art; in Toronto there is no such thing. Libraries and museums should be the objects of the ambition of every city and important town in the Dominion. Many gentlemen have made suggestions; I also have one to make; and that, a very practical one. This library has to be filled with as little delay as possible. I believe that there are only in it, at present, 35,000 books, which is not a great number for a library of this kind. You can go to the cities of New England and find that even antiquarian, historical and other societies have three or four times the number of books you have here. A great institution like this should have a library of over 100,000 volumes at least. Let every man and every woman—and I appeal to



Library from Museum; March, 1893.

the women especially, because I know their great influence on everybody's life—leave this building with the determination to make this library the best in Canada. Give us one great public library, not simply a university library, but one where facilities will be given to students from wherever they come. Let every man and woman go away and say, "I shall give five, ten or twenty books before the year is out." Choose these books carefully—after consultation with the authorities and librarian when possible—and there will be no difficulty in the future. Let this be a positive pledge to himself or herself, and this library will not only be of great use to McGill and Montreal, but a credit to Canada. I have, perhaps, said more than I intended when I rose a few minutes ago. I desire to see McGill in every sense a national university. I am connected with Trinity in Toronto, and I can sincerely say she holds forth the hand of fellowship to McGill, and wishes every prosperity to an institution which is truly an honour to this noble city, crowned by its beautiful mountain—to this city, where two races are living side by side in amity, where one can learn so much from the other—from the innate courtesy and culture of the French, from the steadfast purpose and energy of the Anglo-Saxon.

Peter Redpath, Esq.

I rise to supply an omission in the remarks I previously made. I think I ought to have acknowledged, in the terms which I feel are due, the services of the architect, Mr. Taylor. I do not think that I could have had a professional man, either on this side the Atlantic or the other, who could have taken more interest in the matter, or produced a better result. I would also like to say a few words about the newly appointed librarian, Mr. Gould. He took some months to study his duties, and he has entered upon them with the utmost zeal. I am sure that McGill will have no reason to regret his appointment.

Hon. J. S. Hall,

TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

May it Please Your Excellency, Your Honour,

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Members of Convocation, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

I am sure it would be idle for me to say that it affords me pleasure, or that I fully appreciate the honour it does me to be here as a graduate of this University, to say a few words on behalf of the graduates of the University, upon an occasion when we are receiving such a handsome donation as we do to-day from Mr. Repath. No doubt Your Excellency, as patron of the University, will have occasion in a short time to visit the other buildings and to see the donations of Sir Donald Smith, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Molson, Mr. Workman, Mr. McLennan and some of the other Governors of this University, and you will be able, perhaps, to bear testimony to what we are proud of, that through the benefactions of the citizens of Montreal to McGill, the University, for its age, stands unrivalled on the continent of America.

Sir William Dawson has given you a short history of the library in connection with the University. It was my privilege in 1870 to enter the Faculty of Arts as an undergraduate, and, going through that faculty I was made aware of the great advantage it was to a student to have access to a library, in which he could consult the books. It is not my place to minimize any department of a university, but there can be no doubt that a well-stored library is one of the most valuable things a university can have. No matter how ably lectures are delivered or how well professors may do their duty or how carefully the student may take notes, for advanced study he must have recourse to a library such as we have in preparation for us here. I do not remember the shelves in the William Molson Library "gaping for books," but I do remember when there were only a very few books there. I also remember that not many years ago, I was sitting as a member of the Corporation of the university, when the building had become too small for the books we had. I am glad to say that the Corporation was relieved from the difficulty by (I was going to say, our old friend, and I will say it, though in using this word, I do not refer as some might think, to his age) Mr. John Henry Molson, who came forward and gave us the ground upon which this building is situated. When Your Excellency walked over to this building to-day, and saw the museum that stands hard by, erected by Mr. Peter Redpath, you must I am sure, have felt that the measure of benefaction had reached its limit. But not content with that, and still keeping warm his interest in the city of his birth, (for he was born and brought up here, though, of late, he has been separated from us), Mr. Redpath has now given us this magnificent building in which to store our books. Your Excellency must have been struck as we all were with the ornate exterior of the edifice, and with this beautiful interior, graced as it is by the two splendid windows which Mrs. Peter Redpath,—for you see, Your Excellency, we always have the ladies with us at our meetings,—has generously given, in order to make the library additionally inviting.

I must not, Your Excellency, occupy your time very much longer. Perhaps, however, I may say a few words to the graduates who are here. I will call their attention to the number of vacant spaces upon the shelves about us, and remind them that in 1876 we started a library fund, which has grown to certain dimensions ; and I think in view of the magnificent donation we have received to-day, it behoves the Graduates' Society and the graduates generally, to see if they cannot contribute something towards the purchase of books. This would be a practical, and it seems to me, the truest way of showing their appreciation of Mr. Redpath's liberality. For it is difficult to find words to express what the graduates really feel towards Mr. Redpath and those who have so generously built up this University in our midst. I can only say that the graduates (and I speak for all of them), are to a man proud of their University ; and I think I may add that McGill has nothing to be ashamed of in her list of graduates. In looking through that list, Your Excellency, I see names of familiar friends, names of men with whom I have corresponded, and of men whom I have met casually in different parts ; but I will say that, widely as they differ in other respects, and scattered as they are over Canada and Europe, I find one common feeling among them, and that is a deep feeling of loyalty to their Alma Mater. I find another feeling among them : it is not merely a feeling of gratitude ; it is something more than that,—stronger than gratitude,—which the graduates feel towards the Board of Governors and the Benefactors, for what they have done in establishing such a centre of learning as we have in McGill ; and a feeling of deep satisfaction that they are sons of a University holding a place so highly honoured through the whole Dominion and the world.

His Excellency The Governor-General.

Mr. Principal, Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I hope you won't think that a very dangerous precedent is being set if I inflict myself upon you for a moment once more. In fact, I believe it is one of the several prerogatives the Governor-General of Canada has, that he may rise a second time in a Canadian community without being greeted with cries of "Spoke." I heard no such utterance proceed from any one in this hall when I rose again. I wish to be allowed to express in a more definite manner than I did before, because I did not quite realize the significance and extent of it, my gratitude for the beautiful and handsome present I received from Mr. Redpath; I mean the golden key. It bears an inscription, the reading of which conveys to me the certainty that it is not merely a model to be placed in some conspicuous place in the library, but is to be carried away by me as a souvenir of a most interesting event. The inscription reads:—"To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada, from Peter Redpath." On the beautiful box in which it is placed are the arms of the university, with the words: "McGill University Library." I need hardly say that it is a most valuable token of his kindness and of this memorable occasion. I only hope that the librarian will not look upon it with any misgivings so far as I am concerned. We all know that libraries are afflicted with people who have a way of taking out books and not returning them. I must not forget that I am now a Visitor of this college, and if at some unreasonable hour I make use of the key and extract a book, it might happen that this would cause some difficulty, but I trust that if on any occasion a book should be missing, none of the students will suggest to the librarian that the Governor-General is the culprit. Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that the excellent hint thrown out by Mr. Molson at the outset, that the speeches should be short, has been admirably followed. Indeed, I could have wished myself that we could have heard a little more of that silver speech to which Dr. Bourinot alluded, and of which he gave us such an excellent specimen. Perhaps he was unconsciously speaking of some I see upon this platform when he spoke of silence being not golden, but criminal. But we must feel that the proceedings have been most pleasant and attractive. My reason for rising is that I have to make an intimation, and it is that I hope I may be allowed, as, I think, my predecessors have been, to present a gold medal for competition by the students of this university, by some test to be arranged by the governing body and professors, if they will give me the satisfaction. I am only sorry that the students of this university have reached those riper years of discretion which would make anything like the suggestion of a holiday superfluous and out of place. I suppose the best thing I could do would be to ask that the professors should arrange for an extra course of lectures. But, perhaps, the professors would demur to an addition to their labors. However, I again beg to thank those who have arranged these proceedings for the interest they have taken in them.



Stack Room.

Lady Aberdeen wishes me to thank the students for the handsome bouquet they presented to her on her arrival.

His Honour J. A. Chapleau,

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Your Excellencies, Mr. Vice-Chancellor,
Mr. Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I think it wrong on my part to rise, after having done what I did to-day—excused myself and apologised to the Vice-Principal for not being able to make an address. I think I was right when I wrote, and wrong when I rose to attempt to speak in this temple of learning, of knowledge, and of unmerciful criticism; because the attempt should not be made except by one who can speak "from the book," or "like a book," and neither of these can I do. Therefore, I have to apologize now: but I could not refuse the call made on me by those present here to say a word or two, if only in the official capacity I occupy in the Province of Quebec, and in my own name, as a fellow of another university, not a rival to this, but a friend, to congratulate you all upon this occasion; and it is with pleasure that I do so. Happy are those who can receive such princely gifts as the one that has been given you, and which is the cause of this demonstration, and happy and happier still are those who can make such gifts. The names of these benefactors will remain in history and in the hearts of the people of the country where they have lived; and they will live to such an extent and to such a length of time that it will never require the researches of a learned man like Sir William Dawson to speak of them in the future as he spoke in his interesting lecture of last evening, of a certain people, as an extinct, as a forgotten race.

Mr. Redpath, you have presented His Excellency with a golden key to open this establishment: you have kept one in your possession which is not made of gold, but which is more precious than any precious stone of which it could be made, and that is the key of sympathy with which you go to the hearts of the people of this university. You have donated to this great and noble university a magnificent building for a shelter for its "potential knowledge." You have done a great and noble work in continuing the great and noble work of your predecessors, the other benefactors of this university and this country.

I have read somewhere that the three great enemies of libraries are moths, mildew and fire. You have provided by your prudent gift a shelter against one of these; the students will themselves take care to provide against another, and the high spirit of this country will preserve it from the third. I thought when reading the names of these three great enemies of public libraries, that they represented something of which, fortunately, our country is now free—moths, which are prejudice and bigotry, working sedulously, hypocritically, to destroy the good things that the most noble efforts of humanity have built; mildew, which is ignorance or negligence, and which may cause the destruction of such a monument as this; and fire, which is fanaticism; fanaticism that has caused in years past, according to history, the destruction of such great libraries as that of Alexandria, by Caliph Omar, and also the destruction of the great treasures of Greece and Rome by the invasions of fanatical barbarians. Fortunately, our country has got rid of all that. The good spirit of the fellows, professors and students of this institution will prevent mildew from causing any damage to your establishment. This excellent building and the assiduity of the professors and students, will prevent moths, and the high spirit of our country will ever preserve from fanaticism or bigotry the name of this building.

I would add only one word, and that must be of complaint against my friend, Dr. Bourinot. He has seen me so long in the House of Commons at Ottawa, that he has appealed to me as one of the politicians. He apparently does not know that I abandoned that interesting and talkative body nearly twelve months ago; and, therefore, it could not have been to me he alluded when he said that politicians should keep silence. If I wanted to keep silent to-day, it was not as a reformed politician, but as one who is not a scholar and not enough of a learned man to address such a meeting as this.

I thank Your Excellencies, and you, ladies and gentlemen, who have listened to me, and I again apologise for occupying your time. You will understand from my remarks that I am a good deal like the little girl who was to present a compliment to her mother. She had thought over it with a great deal of care—it was to be a long and beautiful compliment—but when she saw her mother, who, with tender eyes, was looking lovingly at her, she said: "Mamma, I had very good thoughts; but I have forgotten everything. But I love you very much more than I can tell you." I can say this, for my part:—Forgive me for my poor address, but be sure of one thing, you gentlemen of this university, I love it, and I have admiration for it as I have love and admiration for its benefactors.



Presentation of Library by Mr. Redpath.



Library, from College Grounds

Description of New Library Building.*

The inequalities and narrow limits of the site influenced somewhat the arrangement ; difficulties, however, are only incentives to exertion, and the architec- was faced by this most interesting as well as complex problem : how to obtain on the site a commodious, convenient, well-planned, well-lit library, which would also allow of easy expansion, and be at once collegiate, dignified, monumental and beautiful. There are many magnificent, hoary and time-honored library buildings in the Old World, in which the precious legacies of the past have been preserved and treasured up ; but wants change with the ages, and in the altered and special circumstances of to-day some other arrangements than these old buildings afford seemed desirable. In the United States, great interest has recently been taken in the planning and fitting up of library buildings, and considerable ingenuity and skill have been displayed in the designing of such. One of the points of divergence from the old examples is in the position of the books. In many new libraries, the general books are not placed in the reading room, but in a "stack room'

*Kindly furnished by the Architect, Andrew T. Taylor, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A. (of Messrs. Taylor & Gordon), Montreal.

adjoining, and it is claimed that this arrangement has several advantages over the old system, in affording greater protection to the books from heat, dust, fire, etc After much consideration, the architect adopted the "stack" system as the best arrangement for the books. All librarians are of course familiar with this system, but to those who have not had the opportunity of examining it, a brief explanation may be of interest. The books are placed by themselves in a large lofty chamber, well lit from two or more sides, and sometimes also from the top. This chamber is made absolutely fire-proof, and cut off by fire-proof doors from the rest of the building. It is divided up in the height into several storeys by open gratings, or by iron and thick rough plate-glass; these storeys are generally not more than 7 feet to 8 feet high, so that the librarians can reach any book on the shelves without the aid of a ladder. The book-cases are generally of iron, with shelves sometimes of iron and sometimes of wood. Various patents have been taken out for these book-cases or stacks, differing more or less from each other. Access is obtained to the different storeys by light iron stairs, either straight or circular. In this particular instance, stacks were selected of the "Library Bureau" type, with uprights of grooved steel, in which bracket ends slide up and down, being fixed at the required height by a wedge easily adjustable. The pattern of the bracket ends was specially made for this library; the shelving is of polished oak. This stack room has four storeys, with straight stairs, and a lift for books; on each storey there is a wide bay window, back and front, for special privileged readers, where they can consult any of the books on the spot, and not obstruct the passage ways between the books. In the future, when the stack room requires to be enlarged, these bays will form the centre of the stack, and the accommodation will be thus nearly doubled.

In the basement or lowest floor, which is entirely above ground with the exception of a small portion on one side, five studies or seminary rooms are arranged for special studies, fitted up with tables, chairs, and book-cases for books bearing upon these special subjects. These can be reached by a separate door from the campus, or by the main entrance. At the other end of the building is a wide entrance for the reception of boxes of books, which opens into the unpacking room. From here the books are then taken to the cataloguing room immediately above, by a lift in a small projecting wing in which also a staircase is arranged, for the exclusive use of the librarians. The rest of this floor is occupied by the caretaker's house, lavatories, heating chambers and coals.

On the main floor the principal feature is the great reading room, 110 feet long, 43 feet wide, and 44 feet high to the top of inner roof, with a high open timber roof having the hammer beams ornamented by carved heads of grotesque animals. At the further corners are lofty oriel windows with seats round same. In the centre of the S. E. side is a recessed fireplace or inglenook, with a red stone mantel inside, having the following motto cut in relief in a panel: "Cease not to learn until thou cease to live." At the entrance to the inglenook is a large massive carved oak mantel-piece about 14 feet high, with the following quotation from the Proverbs, cut on the carved frieze: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." On the opposite side of the reading room is a lofty square recessed window with seats round. A large wide level gallery has been arranged at one end, which may be used for the display of rare illuminated books, manuscripts and missals in glass cases, and other purposes, and from which visitors can obtain a good view of the reading room, without disturbing the readers. Below this gallery, the Librarian's room and the cataloguing room are obtained, divided by an ornamental glass screen from the reading room. This is the working department of the building, where all the books are catalogued and arranged; contiguous to this is the attendant's counter for the distribution of books, and from this is the entrance to the stack room already referred to, protected by steel fire-proof doors. Between the cataloguing room and the reading room are placed the Card Catalogue cases, opening on both sides, so that the cards may be placed in the drawers from the one side, and consulted by the readers from the other. The remainder of this floor is taken up by a well-lit room for periodicals, and by cloak-rooms. In the tower is placed the staircase, opening into the entrance hall and into the reading room by ornamental arches. The vestibule and entrance hall have marble and oak dados respectively, and both have marble mosaic floors. There is also a special Muniment vault for the care of precious books and muniments. On the upper floor in addition to the gallery are a Professors' room, and a large room or hall with a high ceiling for architectural casts, sculpture, etc. The fittings of the reading room are all of oak, of a substantial character and polished, the tables being arranged across the room so as to have the light right and left. Round the walls are arranged book-cases for reference books.

The windows are glazed with leaded lights in geometrical patterns, having panels in same for quotations and inscriptions. It is the intention to have all these panels filled in with suitable mottoes painted on the glass as soon as a selection can be made. At present only a few have been painted on in the vestibule, entrance hall and staircase. Those selected are as follows:—"ψυχῆς ἰατρειον." "Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them." "Reading furnishes the mind only with the materials of knowledge, it is thinking makes what we read ours." "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man." "And out of olde bokes in good feith, cometh al this newe science that men lere." "Voyaging through strange seas of thought alone." "Ars longa, vita brevis." "Nature never did betray the heart that loved her." "Bibliothecæ, in quibus tanquam mausolæis priscorum sanctorum reliquiæ, virtutis plenæ, conditæ sunt." Special attention has been given to the three-light window facing the campus, and to the five-light window at the other end of the reading room. These have been filled in with beautiful painted glass, which is the loving gift of Mrs. Peter Redpath, who thus wished to be associated with her husband in this magnificent expression of regard and sympathy for McGill University. The three light window is specially elaborate, having a number of groups of the men great in art, poetry and music. In all cases every effort has been made to obtain authentic portraits of these celebrities. The lists of their names are given in the key-plan accompanying the illustration of the window. The five light window is not so elaborate as the other,

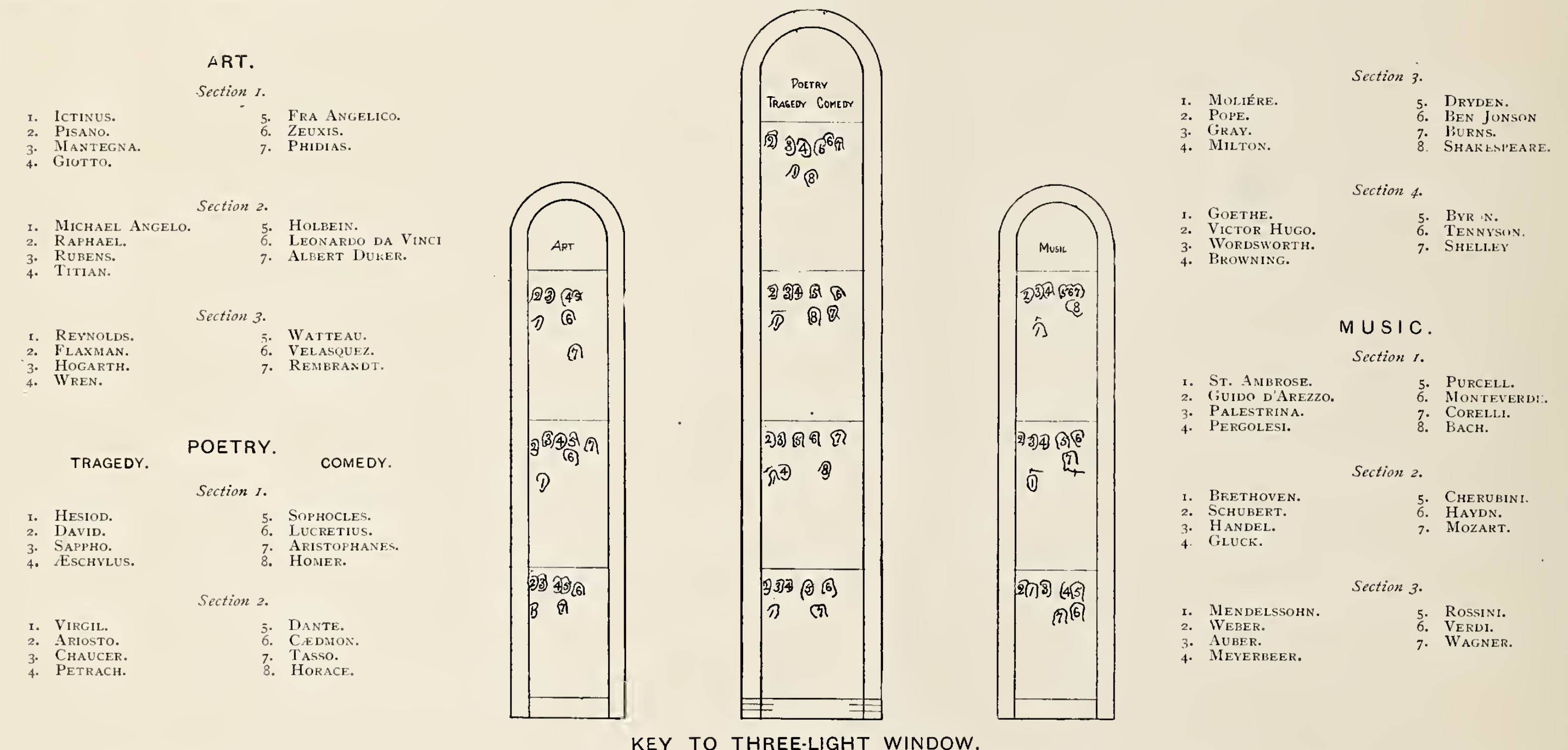
and the colors were purposely kept lighter, so as to obstruct the light as little as possible. These windows are respectively dedicated to law, history, philosophy, astronomy, medicine, and have medallion portraits of the great masters in each subject, as follows:—Law—Solon, Justinian, Edward I., Grotius. History—Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, Cæsar, Nicholas Machiavelli, Edward Gibbon, Leopold von Ranke, Charles Simonde de Sismondi. Moral and Natural Philosophy—Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, St. Augustine, Martin Luther, Francis Bacon, Réné Descartes, Immanuel Kant. Astronomy—Thales, Claudius Ptolemy, Nicholas Copernicus, Galileo, John Kepler, Isaac Newton, Peter Simon de Laplace, Frederick William Herschel. Medicine—Hippocrates, Galen, Harvey, Jenner.



Reading Room.

For artificial light, electric lamps are used entirely, and in addition to handsome polished antique-brass electroliers suspended by chains from the roof, the reading room is lit by standards, with green shades, placed on each table. The walls of the reading room are colored a soft shade of green, relieved with gold, so as to be restful to the eye, and yet not too absorbous of light. The walls of the entrance hall and staircase are coloured a dull soft red. All the floors are covered with cork carpeting to deaden the sound. The heating is entirely by hot water on the direct radiation system, which is considered the healthiest, the simplest and the best.

The construction is as nearly fire-proof as possible, and the stack room is entirely so. The whole of the main floor is of steel beams and porous terra cotta arching. The other floors and the roofs, where not of this material, are of solid oak beams, and flooring on the slow combustion principle. The stairs are of iron and slate. Externally, the building is constructed of the Montreal limestone, of a whity-grey colour in dressed ashlar work, except the basement, which is of rock-faced ashlar. The roofs are of blue Rockland slates and copper. The doors are of polished oak with wrought-iron grille work and fittings. The style adopted is a free treatment of Romanesque, which lends itself to the requirements of such a building, as being at once dignified and yet picturesque. The tower rises to a height of about 90 feet. The salient points of the design are accentuated by stone carving, embracing suitable subjects such as the symbolic figures of the four Evangelists, the College arms, the crest and motto of the donor of the Library. Convenience of arrangement and suitability for its purpose, combined with substantiality and solidity of construction, were the desiderata; afterwards came in the elements of beauty, proportion and grace, and it is hoped that, in some measure, all of these have been attained without the sacrifice of one to the other.



KEY TO THREE-LIGHT WINDOW.

The collection of books, for the housing of which such careful and excellent provision has been made, consists of about 55,000 volumes and a large number of pamphlets. Not more than 35,000 volumes are, however, at present placed in the new library building. The remaining 20,000 volumes are distributed among departmental libraries in the buildings of the Faculties of Medicine, Law and Applied Science, and in the laboratories. A few are also kept in the Museum and at the Botanic Gardens. Some of these departmental libraries, notably that of the Faculty of Medicine, are large and complete. Indeed it may be stated that the University library is, on the whole, an excellent one for its size: and its books are chiefly such as are required by students, the proportion of works of fiction and light literature being exceptionally small. Its strongest feature is an especially good collection of works bearing upon, and materials for, British and Canadian history. For this it is indebted mainly to Mr. Peter Redpath, who has, almost from the day he identified himself with the University, been a most generous donor of histories. His gifts of books now amount to fully 3,500 volumes (almost all of them rare or expensive works), besides nearly as many pamphlets. It should be added that, before formally presenting the new library building, Mr. Redpath, with his accustomed forethought, stated his intention to contribute annually the sum of five thousand dollars towards salaries and other expenses in connection with the maintenance of the Library, in order that his gift might not become a charge upon the revenues of the University.



Three-Light Window.

SOME POINTS IN THE HISTORY

OF

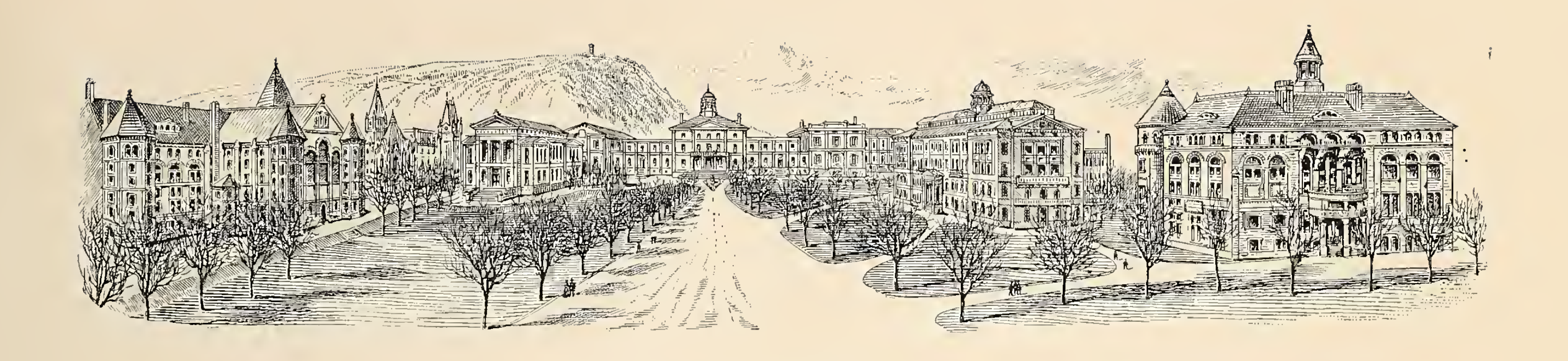
McGILL UNIVERSITY

BY

SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON,

C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., &c.





Some Points in the History of McGill University.

FROM THE ANNUAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE.*

McGill University, like many of the greater universities and colleges of other countries, originated in private endowment. It is, however, almost alone in this respect among the colleges of Canada, and owes much of its prosperity and success to this fact, more especially in connection with the unique position which it occupies as the highest educational institution of an influential, progressive and intelligent minority in this city and province.

The Founder.

The founder of the university, James McGill, was born on the 6th October, 1744, in Glasgow, Scotland. He received his early education and training in that country, but of these little is known. He arrived in Canada before the American revolution, and appears, in the first place, to have engaged in the Northwest fur trade, then one of the leading pursuits in Canada. Subsequently he settled in Montreal, and, in partnership with his brother, Andrew McGill, became one of the leading merchants in the little town of about nine thousand inhabitants which then represented our commercial metropolis. His settlement in Montreal, and his marriage with a lady of French parentage, the widow of a Canadian gentleman, occurred a little before the beginning of this century, and from that time till his death, in December, 1813, he continued to be a prominent citizen of Montreal, diligent and prosperous in his business, frank and social in his habits, and distinguished for public spirit and exertion for the advancement of the city. His name appears in several commissions relating to city matters—for instance, that for removing the old walls of Montreal. He was Lieutenant-Colonel and subsequently Colonel of the Montreal City Militia; and in his old age, on the breaking out of the American war of 1812, he became Brigadier General, and was prepared in that capacity, to take the field in defence of his country. He represented for many years the West ward of Montreal in the Provincial Legislature, and was afterwards a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils. Mr. McGill is described by his contemporaries as a man of tall and commanding figure—in his youth a very handsome man, and becoming corpulent in his old age. He was a prominent member of the association of fur magnates known as the "Beaver Club." In this connection it may be stated that Mr. McGill's resolution to dispose of his property in this way was not a hasty death-bed resolve, but a mature and deliberate decision. He had taken a lively interest in the measures then before the Government for the establishment of an educational system in the Province of Quebec, and had mentioned, many years before his death, his intention to give, during his lifetime, an endowment in aid of a college, if these measures should be carried out by the Government. But many delays occurred. From 1802, when the act to establish the "Board of Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning" was passed, until the time of Mr. McGill's death, the persistent opposition on the part of the leaders of one section of the people to any system of governmental education, and the apathy of some of the members of the council, had prevented the appointment of the Board, or the completion of the liberal grants of land and money for educational purposes which had been promised. Mr. McGill was apparently weary of these delays, and feared that he might be cut off by death before he could realize his intentions. He had also the sagacity to foresee that a private endowment might force the reluctant or tardy hands of the members of Government to action. Accordingly, in his will, prepared in 1811, more than two years before his death, he bequeathed his property of Burnside, and a sum of ten thousand pounds in money, to found a college in the contemplated provincial university, under the management of the Board of Royal Institution; but on condition that such college and university should be established within ten years of his decease. Three leading citizens of Montreal, the Honorable James Richardson, James Reid, Esq., and James Dunlop, Esq., and the Rev. John Strachan, afterwards the Bishop of Toronto, were appointed trustees under the will. The wise liberality of a good man is often far more fruitful than

*Delivered by the Principal, Sir William Dawson, Nov. 16, 1888.

he could have anticipated. Mr. McGill merely expressed a wish to found a college in connection with a university already provided for by the generosity of the British Government. But the grants promised to the university were not given, and the English settlers in the Province of Quebec were deprived of the provisions for education made by the liberality of the Crown in the other colonies. In the providence of God, Mr. McGill's bequest intervened to avert some, at least, of the evils arising from this failure. In consequence of his will, a pressure was brought to bear on the Government, which resulted in the appointment of the Board of Royal Institution in 1818, and though, from the refusal of the French to take part in it, it was almost entirely English in its composition, it proceeded to the establishment of non-denominational schools. These schools were never very numerous—about eighty being the maximum number; but they formed the beginning of the present school system. The Royal Institution, being a Government board, had, on that account, too little of the popular sympathy, especially among the settlers in the Eastern Townships; and the Local Legislature practically refused to acknowledge it, and set up in opposition to it a denominational system of "Fabrique schools" in the French parishes; and finally, its functions were restricted to the McGill College alone, by the new educational act which followed the rebellion of 1837.

In so far as McGill College was concerned, the Royal Institution at once took action in applying for a royal charter, which was granted in 1821, and prepared to take possession of the estate. This, however, owing to litigation as to the will, was not surrendered to them till 1829. They also demanded the grants of land which had been promised, and received fresh assurances; and, as an earnest of their fulfilment, the Government of the day was authorized to erect a building for McGill College, and to defray the expenses out of the "Jesuits' estates." But the hopes thus held out proved illusory, and the college buildings had to be begun with the money left by Mr. McGill, and were at length completed only by the liberality of another citizen of Montreal, the late William Molson.

The value of the property bequeathed by Mr. McGill was estimated at the time of his death, at £30,000; and it has since become much greater, owing to the growth of the city. The sum was not large in comparison with many other educational bequests; but it would be difficult to estimate its value to Canada in general, and to Montreal in particular. Gathering around it the gifts of other liberal men, it has sustained the McGill University, and carried it on to its present point of usefulness and success as a source of literary and scientific culture. Hundreds of professional men in all parts of Canada bear testimony to its value; and the city derives from it much of its higher character as a centre of learning and practical science. Indirectly, it has benefited the cause of common and Grammar school education, through the action of the Royal Institution, through the services of students and graduates as teachers, and through the McGill Normal school, which, though supported by Government would scarcely have been established but for the influence of the college. Those who have in these ways received its educational benefits are to be found in all parts of the country, contributing by superior skill and intelligence to the common good. If the future may be anticipated from the past, its utility will, in the time to come, go on increasing and widening, growing with the growth of our country and pervading all departments of useful and honorable occupation. The experience of older nations has shown that such educational endowments survive all changes, and go on, bearing fruit from age to age. It will, doubtless, be so here also, and the time will come when the original endowment of McGill will appear but as the little germ from which a great tree has sprung—or as the spring which gave birth to a mighty river.

Under the charter granted in 1821 were carried on for thirty years the early operations of the university—embarassed by pecuniary difficulty, owing to the failure of the Government to give the promised public aid, and by the structure of the charter itself, which was cumbrous and unwieldy, and unsuited to a small college in the circumstances of this country. The result was that, after nearly thirty years of struggle, the university, with the exception of its medical faculty, was almost extinct, and that it was without sufficient income even to sustain the scanty staff which it then possessed in the faculty of arts. Its existence at this time seems to have been largely due to the persistency with which the late Vice-Principal, Ven. Archdeacon Leach, clung to its interests. It was then that several gentleman, citizens of Montreal, assumed the responsibility of its renovation, and secured an amended charter under which its later work has been carried on.

Of the noble band of men who at that time undertook this herculean and, in the view of many, desperate task, Day, Ferrier, McGill, Anderson, Davidson, Coffin, Ramsay, Holmes, Robertson and Dunkin, deserve special mention and remembrance.

Turning now to the constitution as it exists under the royal charter, the first fact which meets us is that the supreme authority in the university remains in the hands of the Crown, and is exercised by His Excellency the Governor-General as Visitor. This is a special and important feature of our constitution. It gives us an imperial character, and removes us at once from any merely local or party influence, while it secures to us the patronage of the head of our political system, and this has always been generously and judiciously given.

It is popularly supposed that the Governor General has no power in educational matters, but in our case this is a mistake. He has not only a substantial veto in matters of appointments and of new statutes, but a positive power in aiding us in many important ways, and we owe much to the countenance of our successive Visitors since the office was established under the charter of 1852.

Next to the Visitor, the highest governing body of the University is the Board of Royal Institution, Governors of McGill College, whose president is ex officio our Chancellor. The Board of Royal Institution at one time had charge of all schools in this province, but its function is now limited to the administration of McGill College and of such other colleges as may be connected with it; and all endowments given to it for educational purposes are held by it as royal endowments.

The vacancies in the Board are filled by nomination of the remaining members, with approval of the Visitor, who has power to appoint without any



Five-light Window.

nomination if the numoer of members falls below ten. But the nominations are made under certain restrictions. The gentlemen appointed must be residents of Montreal. They must be laymen not deriving any emolument either directly or indirectly from the college. They must be Protestants, and as far as possible must represent all the Protestant denominations. These qualifications probably give the highest security possible in a community like this for an efficient non-academical governing board, and hitherto their working has been successful. I doubt if any body of men discharging any public duty in Canada has been more efficient and influential or more respected and trusted than the Board of Royal Institution, and I have reason to know that this has tended, by the confidence it inspired, to attract endowments to the University. The Principal under the old charter was one of the Governors, but under the new charter he is a salaried servant of the university, appointed in the same manner with the professors, by the governors, and holding office during their pleasure. He is, ex-officio, Vice-chancellor and a member of the corporation. Except in his capacity of member of the corporation he has no legislative function, and is merely an administrative officer, under the statutes and regulations passed by the governors and corporation, beyond the enforcement of which his powers do not extend. He is entitled to preside at all meetings of the faculties and at meetings of the corporation in the absence of the Chancellor, and may discharge teaching duties as assigned to him by the governors. He has general superintendence of the university, and is the ordinary medium of communication between the university and other bodies, and between the different portions of the university itself, and he acts for the university in the public conferring of all degrees. Practically in McGill the substantial power resides with the governors, the corporation and the several faculties; the Principal has merely to see that all members of the university obey the regulations, to harmonize as far as possible the interests of different departments, and to keep up their united working for the common good, as well as to attend to all emergencies of a general or indefinite character that may occur, and to such public reports, exercises or cases of discipline as may affect the whole university or more than one faculty. His position is thus much less autocratic than that of a president of an ordinary American college, and his largest opportunities for usefulness depend on his personal influence and on his right to be the official medium of communication between different parts of the university, which makes him the link of connection between different departments, and enables him to smooth asperities and to prevent conflicts of jurisdiction. Incidentally it falls to him to extend, as far as possible, the hospitality of the university to its friends and to strangers, and to give or cause to be given to students and intending students such aid and general guidance as they may require, while no inconsiderable part of his time is occupied with attending in various ways to the interests of individual graduates, students and other members of the university, who may apply to him for testimonials, assistance and guidance under a great variety of circumstances. The Corporation of the university is the highest academical body, properly so called, and with reference to educational powers. It consists of Governors, Principal and Fellows. The two former have been already noticed. The latter are not, as in some universities, the recipients of handsome annual stipends, without obligation to work, but men held to do work for the university without special remuneration, and who are selected with reference to the representation of all the faculties and departments, as well as of some bodies only indirectly connected with it. At present there are thirty-six fellows, constituting two-thirds of the corporation, and whose representative capacities may be stated as follows:—Deans of Faculties, 5; Elective Representatives of Faculties, 7; Representatives of Graduates, 9; Representatives of Affiliated Colleges, 7; Representative of the Normal School, 1; Representatives of the Donalda Endowment, 2; Governors' Fellows, appointed on account of services to the university, 5.

The powers of the corporation are fixed by the statutes, and include the framing of all regulations touching courses of study, matriculation and graduation, and the granting of degrees, the public conferring of such degrees in convocation being merely formal and consequent on their being granted by the corporation, which must, however, either act on the reports of the faculties, or in the case of *ad eundem* and honorary degrees which may originate in the corporation, must give opportunity to the faculties to make representation. The corporation is intended fairly to represent all parts of the university. It cannot, of course, do this on any merely numerical standard, but this matters little in a body whose members may be supposed to have regard to the general interests of the university as well as to those of the special part of it which they may happen to represent; and there is no member of the university who has not through the principal, the representatives of colleges, faculties and graduates, means of access to the corporation in relation to the exercise of any of its powers that may affect him. On the other hand, no regulation or action affecting any department can be carried out in corporation without the cognizance of representatives of that department. The function of the corporation is purely educational. It has no control of property, income, salaries or appointments. Its members may thus be salaried officers without any suspicion of interested motives in their action. Its regular meetings are only four in each session, but it may hold special meetings for certain purposes, and it has several permanent committees which carry on important parts of its work in the intervals of its meetings.

The several Faculties of McGill College have large independent powers. This grew up in the old condition of the university, when the faculty of medicine had to sustain itself and to carry on its own affairs almost independently, and the autonomy which it possessed has in many respects been extended by the statutes to the other faculties. Each faculty has independent powers of framing regulations as to details of the course of study, examinations, admission, discipline and government of students, fees, and in general all things relating to the internal government and discipline of its portion of the university system. It has also judicial powers of hearing and determining complaints as to violation of its rules. These wide powers are limited only in two ways. New regulations or repeal of those in force must be approved by corporation, and no student can be expelled without consent of corporation. The functions and powers of individual professors are determined in

the first instance by the terms of their appointment by the governors, and as to details by the rules and action of their faculty. The dean of each faculty has the same general supervision in the faculty which the principal has in the university; and the dean of the faculty of arts is ex-officio, vice-principal.

There are at present five faculties, those of Law, Medicine, Arts (including the Donalda special course for Women) Applied Science (including departments of Civil, Mechanical, Mining, and Electrical Engineering and Practical Chemistry,) and Veterinary Science.

The above portions of the constitution relate to the university and to McGill college, which is the University College properly so called: all others being affiliated colleges of the university, though the charter gives power to have other colleges co-ordinate with McGill, should endowments provide for them.

Affiliat[ed] Colleges

Affiliated Colleges may be of different kinds, but they all differ from faculties in being independent bodies, with distinct acts of incorporation and government, and having connection with the university only in so far as its university powers are concerned. An affiliated college in arts of the first class is one having a sufficient staff to bring up students for the degree examinations. An affiliated college of the second class is one competent to present students for the intermediate examination. Morrin college, Quebec, is an example of the first, St. Francis college, Richmond, and the Stanstead Wesleyan College of the second. On similiar terms, schools of theology become affiliated colleges, and our system in this respect has met with marked success and is deserving of imitation elsewhere. An incorporated school of theology of any Protestant denomination having an adequate staff of instructing officers may become affiliated, and its students may obtain not only the education of the faculty of arts but exemptions from certain studies in the arts course and exemptions from fees, while the college is entitled to a representative in the corporation and to reports as to the examinations of its students. By this simple arrangement any theological college established sufficiently near to the university can relieve itself from the burden of maintaining classes not strictly theological, and can obtain for its students, practically without expense, the whole benefits of the staff and appliances of the university, and the inestimable benefit of the association of its students with those of other denominations. The four theological colleges now affiliated, and representing four of the most important Protestant denominations, are all highly successful and are growing rapidly in importance. While they add by the number of students to the prestige and to the usefulness of the university, it is not too much to say that the reputation of the university greatly tends to their success.

The McGill Normal School is affiliated to the university as a training school for teachers. Its higher teachers have the title of professor, and it is in reality a professional college for one of the most important of all professions. The arrangements which we have recently made for admitting the students of its advanced class to the course in arts, while increasing its scope and efficiency, tend to connect it more closely with the university.

Lastly, there are Affiliated Schools, both in Montreal and in other parts of the Dominion, providing a course of study sufficient to train students for junior or senior matriculation and entitled to examination and certificates, and to such privileges, in respect to free tuitions, etc., as the university may be able from time to time to grant.

Hitherto McGill University has had the greatest cause to be thankful for the enlightened liberality of the citizens of Montreal, and it has often seemed as if that liberality was forthcoming just at the junctures when some pressing want was staring us in the face, without means of meeting it. The original endowment of Mr. McGill came at a great crisis in the affairs of this province, when there was danger that no adequate provision would be made for the educational wants of its English population. I can never forget the liberal subscriptions of 1856, which, headed by the endowment of the Molson chair of English, gave the first augury of success in the revival of the university under its new charter. The completion of our university buildings by Mr. Wm. Molson in 1861, came at another critical time. The endowment of the Peter Redpath, Logan, and John Frothingham chairs in 1871-73, gave another stimulus and accession of force when our progress seemed arrested by want of means. The foundation of the Peter Redpath museum in 1880, placed one important department in advance of every other Canadian university, and made way for extension in other directions. The Scott, Mills and David Greenshields endowments of 1882-84 were just in time to prevent contraction of our work under the great diminution of income arising from the fall in the rate of interest. The large endowments to the medical faculty in 1884-5, met the necessary expansion of its teaching power and of its rooms and laboratories, demanded by the great extension of its course and increase of its students. The endowment of the Hon. Donald A. Smith, for the higher education of women, was offered at the moment when the university seemed called on to enter on this work without adequate means. The more recent great endowments and other provisions for the Faculties of Law, Medicine and Applied Science by Mr. W. C. McDonald, Mr. J. H. R. Molson, Sir Donald A. Smith, and Mr. Thomas Workman, and lastly the new Peter Redpath Library, have in like manner been benefactions meeting urgent and immediate wants. It may be hoped that the university will, under the good providence of God, be favored in like manner with reference to extensions of its work and appliances which still lie in the future.

In Memoriam.

While the foregoing pages were in press the sad intelligence was received of the sudden decease of him whose benefactions they commemorate. Mr. Peter Redpath died at his home, the Manor House, Chislehurst, Kent, on February 1st, 1894, hardly more than three months after he had publicly handed over the new library to the university. In him, the University has lost a friend, chief among whose gifts, many and great as they have been, must be reckoned his keen and active interest in and his personal influence upon all matters connected with the University work; an interest that was manifested only in part by such noble benefactions as that of the Museum, and of the building that has been described in the preceding pages.

A memorial service was held in the reading-hall of the new library building, on February 6th, at 9 o'clock in the morning. It was attended by members of the university and many other friends of Mr. Redpath, and in the course of the service the Rev. Dr. MacVicar spoke as follows:—

"We unite this morning at the same hour in which his funeral service is being conducted at Chiselhurst, England, in a public tribute of respect and honor to the memory of Mr. Peter Redpath. He was born of godly parents in this city, in 1821, where he received his early education, his business training being completed in England. He was a man of good ability, sound judgment, refined and elevated taste, and excellent culture—a lover of literature and art, and, what is infinitely better, a lover of truth and the God of Truth. He was probably as widely read as most of his mercantile contemporaries.

"After a long and successful career, having retired from business, he removed to England, and devoted several years to the study of law, and was admitted to the Bar as a barrister of the Middle Temple. Both in this city and the old land he was deservedly called to occupy many positions of trust and responsibility. In business he was uniformly characterized by indefatigable diligence and unswerving integrity. His yea was yea, and his nay, nay. Gentle, amiable, and considerate of the opinions and feeings of others, ever ready to take a broad and generous view of their actions, yet when purity and principle were concerned he was as firm as a rock. It was vain for those who had sinister ends to serve to attempt to turn him aside from truth and righteousness. In these respects he furnished a notable pattern which young men and all others may do well to imitate.

"As a philanthropist he took rank with the foremost in our land. His benefactions in various forms to McGill University and other public institutions bear witness to his unstinted liberality. The Museum and this Library which bear his name will perpetuate his memory amid the respect and gratitude of generations of students and citizens through coming centuries. He had grace and wisdom given him to administer his large resources in his lifetime for the good of his fellowmen: and this fact deserves to be emphasized. His last public appearance amongst us was in this very hall three months ago, in the performance of a crowning act of educational usefulness.

"But let it not be supposed that all his benevolence took visible forms like those just mentioned. He was naturally unobtrusive, strongly averse to all ostentatious display and vulgar advertising of the good he purposed or accomplished. His unreported charities were numerous and wisely distributed. He sought to do his alms before God, and not before men to be seen of them. The Father who seeth in secret alone knoweth in what abundant measure he gave help and comfort to others.

"As a Christian, he was devout, conscientious, consistent. His Christianity was a life and character rather than a demonstrative profession. He detested quackery and sham in religion, and he was right. I had opportunities of knowing his views on these matters intimately. For many years he was an exemplary member and office-bearer of "The Free Church, Cotte Street," now Crescent Street Church. He served with me there most faithfully as a deacon during my entire pastorate, and was twice elected as an elder, the duties of which office, through his modest estimate of his own ability, he judged himself unable to undertake.

"His simple trust in the word and in the Christ of God was the secret of his meek and quiet spirit, unfailing generosity and sterling worth. And I must add that in all his Christian service and public munificence he was lovingly aided by his partner in life, with whom in her great bereavement, we to-day deeply sympathize. Finally, in this hour of sorrow over one of Montreal's noble benefactors, let us seek through the mediation of Jesus Christ the help of His Holy Spirit, that we may emulate the example of ~~the removal of~~ one whose memory we honor. Amen."

Prayer:—Rev. George Cornish, LL.D.

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, give us grace at this time that we may worship Thee acceptably with reverence and with godly fear. We thank Thee that though Thou art so great and so highly exalted, Thou art ever ready to hear the prayer of Thy children, and to comfort them in the hour of their sorrow and to help them in their time of need. Thou art the Lord and Giver of Life, with all its responsibilities and opportunities for doing good and becoming good; Thou art also the Lord and Giver of Death, so that it cometh not by chance unto us. We thank Thee that death has been robbed of all its terrors by the glorious light which shines forth from the cross of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death hath brought life and immortality to light, and that to all who believe in Him death has become the portal to a new and blessed life in Thy presence for evermore. Graciously regard us at this hour as we are met together to pay our tribute of love and respect to the character and life of our friend and benefactor, whose departure we mourn. With the words of sorrow and regret at the heavy loss sustained by us and all his friends, we desire to unite our thanks to Thee for all that by Thy grace he was enabled to do and to be in the furtherance of high and noble aims in the cause of learning and knowledge, especially to this University, which has been so largely benefited by his wise beneficence. We thank Thee, too, for his attachment to the cause of truth and righteousness, and for his generous aid extended to the promotion of all wise and good objects for enhancing the happiness and well-being of his fellow-men. We thank Thee for his unostentatious Christian life, whereby he was enabled to adorn the doctrine of God his Saviour, and to commend the religion of Christ to the hearts and consciences of men. We rejoice that death, though sudden in its approach, found him ready for the great change, and in the assurance that an entrance has been ministered unto him abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And now that we shall see his face no more, grant that he being dead may still speak unto us, by his deeds of beneficence and the rich example of his pure and guileless life; and that we may hear and heed his voice, and strive to follow in his steps, imitating him in all the excellences of his character as a consistent Christian and honourable and patriotic citizen. We pray also that Thy rich blessing may rest upon and abide with her who, through a long life, has been his loving and worthy helpmate, sharing his joys and encouraging him in his purposes and deeds of benevolence. May her stricken heart be comforted with the peace and consolation which Thou only canst give, and may she be spared for many years to see and enjoy the rich results of the life of him who has been taken from her. And now, in sympathy of thought and sentiment with those who at this hour are standing beside the open grave, let us say:—

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of His great mercy to take unto Himself the soul of our dear brother here departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be like unto His glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby He is able to subdue all things to Himself.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Closing Hymn.

1. The sands of time are sinking;
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for,
The fair, sweet morn awakes.
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring is at hand.
And glory—glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

2. Oh! Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love;
The streams on earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory—glory dwelleth
In Immanuel's land.

3. Oh, I am my Beloved's,
And my Beloved's mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His "house of wine;'
I stand upon His merit,
I know no other stand
Not even where glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land.

4. The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory,
But on my King of Grace;
Not at the crown He giveth,
But on his pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel's land.

5. With mercy and with judgment
My web of time he wove,
And aye the dews of sorrow
Were lustred by His love.
I'll bless the hand that guided,
I'll bless the heart that planned,
When throned where glory dwelleth,
In Immanuel's land. Amen.


BISHOP PRESS